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PATENT APPLICATION

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IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re Application of:

HIROSHI NOBUTA ET AL.

Application No.: 08/579,733

Filed: December 28, 1995

For: IMAGE PROCESSING DEVICE
AND METHOD

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) Examiner: M. W. Wallerson
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) Group Art Unit: 2626
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:
) November 26, 2003

Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

RECEIVED

DEC 01 2003

Technology Center 2600

FIFTH INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT

Sir:

In compliance with the duty of disclosure under 37 C.F.R. § 1.56 and in accordance with the practice under 37 C.F.R. §§ 1.97 and 1.98, the Examiner's attention is directed to the documents listed on the enclosed Form PTO-1449. Copies of the listed documents are also enclosed.

The cited references were called to Applicants' attention in a Japanese Office Action dated September 1, 2003, for a Japanese application which is a counterpart to the instant application. A copy of the Japanese Office Action is also enclosed.

For the concise explanation of relevance for the non-English documents, the Examiner is referred to the English abstracts attached to the non-English documents, and the comments provided below.

Japanese Patent Application Laid-Open 6-276349 relates to a composite image forming device, connectable with an external device, which can perform a copying

function by itself and other functions, realized by communicating image information with the external device. The composite image forming device executes a copying function when an all-clear key is not pressed, otherwise a scanner function or a printer function is executed in response to a command from the external device.

Japanese Patent Application Laid-Open 6-030202 relates to a composite apparatus, such as multi-function copier, comprising a plurality of functions including a laser printer, a scanner, a copying apparatus, and a facsimile apparatus. The composite apparatus controls a scanner controller to start reading a document image when a copy start designation is issued from an operation unit, and to transmit the data of document image read by a scanner to RAM. After all the data is acquired from the scanner, the composite apparatus transmits the acquired data to a print controller which controls an image forming unit to print an image in accordance with the data.

Japanese Patent Application Laid-Open No. 6-105098 relates to a composite function printer comprising a printer function, a scanner function, a copying function, a facsimile function, and a data communication function.

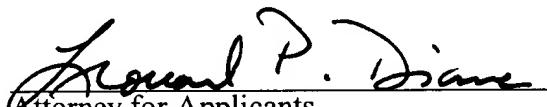
Each item of information in this Information Disclosure Statement was first cited in any communication from a foreign patent office in a counterpart foreign application not more than three months prior to the filing date of this Statement.

This application has received an Office Action on the merits but has not yet received either a final action or a Notice of Allowance. Accordingly, this Information Disclosure Statement is filed under 37 C.F.R. § 1.97(c) and is accompanied by the statement under 37 C.F.R. § 1.97(e) (above). Consideration of the art cited herein is accordingly deemed proper, and such action is respectfully requested.

It is respectfully requested that the above information be considered by the Examiner and that a copy of the enclosed Form PTO-1449 be returned indicating that such information has been considered.

Applicants' undersigned attorney may be reached in our New York office by telephone at (212) 218-2100. All correspondence should continue to be directed to our address given below.

Respectfully submitted,


Attorney for Applicants

Registration No. 9,286

FITZPATRICK, CELLA, HARPER & SCINTO
30 Rockefeller Plaza
New York, New York 10112-3800
Facsimile: (212) 218-2200
NYMAIN391766